

In reference to the proposed expansion of LPFM, consideration should be given to the positive community and societal impact that some national FM stations have in smaller cities and rural areas where the choice of certain categories of local FM stations is quite limited. In particular, I am speaking of the nationally broadcast Christian contemporary station K-Love. This station provides a positive, uplifting, and morally upright alternative to typical local contemporary stations, which in smaller markets are almost always commercial, ratings oriented, and as a result, totally devoted to secular, chart-topping music which often does not contain messages that are either uplifting or positive from a moral or spiritual standpoint. K-Love has provided a hopeful new alternative for the Tallahassee community. It was the first radio station our 11 year old became interested in listening to, and it is still his choice over secular, commercial stations. This alone speaks volumes about the influence this station has had on the future of this community, as wherever I go I see young people wearing T-shirts that carry the K-Love logo. Ten years ago appearing in public in a "Christian radio" t-shirt would have been considered fodder for ridicule. If this station, and others like it, are displaced in favor of local stations, many, many areas of the country like ours will, in the long-term revert to the genre of radio station that can be broadcast with the lowest, commercially-funded overhead possible. This is simply a matter of financial survival for most station owners. In most cases, local broadcasters will not be able to garner enough local support to stay on the air unless they revert to secular, chart-topping music, which is most widely known and more apt to be considered a safe investment by potential local commercial advertisers and sponsors.

Why is it in the public interest for K-Love to stay on the air? I have already touched on a number of reasons. It sends a rare, positive, morally correct message to young people. These are the same young people who mature into teenagers, and the same teenagers who go out with friends and classmates on weekend evenings and have the potential to either benefit or be a detriment to their neighborhoods. It is the same young people who either learn to respect other people and their property or totally disregard the value of the life and belongings of others. K-Love sends a message that others are important. That it is of vital importance to treat others the way you want to be treated, and that being kind and compassionate should always take precedent over being mean and destructive.

Sincerely

Joe Young